

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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May 15, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT
WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

This memo is to inform the Board that it is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into an Agreement with the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CDC) to assist with siting issues accompanying implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) which includes the development of new programs and facilities to provide services and housing to individuals with mental illness.

Background

Passage of MHSA provided an infusion of funds to be used explicitly for new housing and community-based mental health programs. To ensure the success of these new programs, a cogent and cohesive strategy must be designed to enhance public understanding and standardize approaches to the establishment of community mental health programs and housing sites. This Agreement will enable the CDC to develop a countywide strategic plan for the siting of programs funded by MHSA and to provide consultation to providers of housing and services for individuals with mental illness as well as to the highest echelons of the public and private sectors regarding the application of this siting strategy.

DMH has allocated \$100,000 one-time MHSA funding for this proposal.

Justification

CDC is already engaged in developing a strategic plan on behalf of the Chief Administrative Office and all County departments to address similar siting issues associated with homelessness and housing. CDC was selected by the Board of

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Supervisors based on its prior experience and demonstrated expertise providing similar services for the homeless population in Los Angeles County. Concurrent preparation of a strategic plan that focuses on DMH clientele along with a plan for addressing the needs of homeless individuals throughout the County of Los Angeles will ensure a strong and cohesive approach for addressing community concerns before and during site identification. DMH believes it is prudent to solicit services from the same vendor currently providing such services.

Unless otherwise instructed by your Board, DMH will proceed with preparing an Agreement with CDC within two weeks.

MJS:RK:SE:lw

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel